

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: MORNING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, AUGUST 3

NO. 8

WIRE SERVICES

UPI -- JIM ANDERSON FROM BEIRUT

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE TODAY OFFERED LEBANON UP TO \$100
MILLION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE OVER A 3-YEAR PERIOD TO
HELP GET ITS NATIONAL ARMY BACK ON ITS FEET FOLLOWING THE
COUNTRY'S DEVASTATING CIVIL WAR."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE ARRIVED FROM EGYPT WHERE HE AND PRESIDENT SADAT
PROPOSED THAT MIDEAST FONMINS MEET IN THE US NEXT MONTH IN
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WHAT COULD BE THE FIRST DIRECT ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS
IN 30 YEARS.

-- PLAN WAS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY AFTER VANCE AND SADAT
FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR
GENEVA. US OFFICIALS SAID REMAINDER OF VANCE TRIP WOULD BE
DEVOTED TO GETTING APPROVAL OF OTHER LEADERS IN REGION FOR
MEETING.

-- IN JERUSALEM, GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID ISRAEL APPROVED

OF THE SUGGESTION AND CLAIMED IT WAS ESSENTIALLY AN ISRAELI IDEA. BEGIN TOLD A REPORTER HE WELCOMED EGYPT'S AGREEMENT.

-- OFFICIALS CLARIFIED EARLIER STATEMENTS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT \$25 MILLION IN CREDITS TO BE OFFERED LEBANON THIS YEAR WAS PART OF \$100 MILLION 3-YEAR TOTAL. MONEY WILL BE USED TO EQUIP ONE MECHANIZED INFANTRY BRIGADE THE FIRST YEAR, AND THREE MORE SUBSEQUENTLY.

-- US HOPES ITS CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE MATCHED BY OTHER NATIONS.

-- SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TO BE DISCUSSED. ON EVE OF VANCE ARRIVAL, 4 EXPLOSIONS HIT BEIRUT AND SUBURBS WITHIN 20 MINUTES OF EACH OTHER.

-- SADAT SAID WORKING GROUP WOULD DISCUSS PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE. IT WOULD THUS BE A PRELUDE TO GENEVA, IF NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR IT. PARTICIPATION BY PLO OR USSR LEFT OPEN AT PRESS CONFERENCE.

-- DESPITE FACT VANCE MUST GET APPROVAL OF OTHER LEADERS, UNCLASSIFIED

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ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IT APPEAR CERTAIN THERE WOULD BE SOME SORT OF MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS IN US IN SEPTEMBER.

REUTERS -- ROY GUTMAN FROM BEIRUT

LEAD: " SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVED IN LEBANON TODAY TO OFFER SOME \$25 MILLION IN MILITARY SALES CREDITS AND DISCUSS THE STATIONING OF UN FORCES IN THE WAR-TORN COUNTRY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- OFFICIALS ON VANCE PLANE SAID FUNDS WOULD BE USED TO BUY LIGHT ARMS FOR LEBANESE ARMY, ADDED VANCE WOULD ALSO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL SALES CREDITS UP TO \$100 MILLION OVER 3 YEARS. US OFFICIALS SAID OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE ARMS TO LEBANON.

-- WHILE THE CREDITS HAD TO BE APPROVED BY CONGRESS, OFFICIALS SAID PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS INDICATED THE PROPOSAL WOULD MEET WITH FAVORABLE RECEPTION.

-- VANCE ALSO TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS TO STATION EITHER UN FORCES OR UN OBSERVER MISSION ON ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER.

-- YESTERDAY, VANCE AND SADAT ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT ON MEETING OF FONMINS TO PAVE THE WAY TO RESUMPTION OF TALKS

AT GENEVA. PLO WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE.

-- AL-AHRAM REPORTED SADAT HAD REJECTED VANCE SUGGESTION THAT ARAB STATES NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC TIES IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIGNING PEACE AGREEMENT. SADAT REACTED ANGRILY TO QUESTION ON THIS TOPIC AT PRESS CONFERENCE, SAYING THOSE MATTERS COULD BE DISCUSSED AFTER PEACE TREATY WAS SIGNED.

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-- VANCE CAN EXPECT ANGRY REACTION FROM PALESTINIANS.

-- KISSINGER MADE SIMILAR PROPOSAL IN 1975.

-- WORKING GROUP THOUGHT TO BE A FALLBACK PROPOSAL IF AGREEMENT ON GENEVA FAILED TO EVOLVE DURING THIS TRIP.

AP -- BARRY SCHWEID FROM BEIRUT

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVED HERE TODAY ON THE SECOND STOP OF HIS MIDEAST PEACE MISSION AND OFFERED LEBANON \$100 MILLION IN EASY US CREDITS OVER 3 YEARS TO REBUILD ITS ARMY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE ALSO SOUNDED OUT LEBANESE ON STATIONING UN OBSERVER OR EMERGENCY FORCE ALONG LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER. BEGIN GAVE TENTATIVE APPROVAL FOR SUCH A FORCE TO CARTER LAST MONTH IN WASHINGTON.

-- LEBANESE ARMY DISBANDED DURING CIVIL WAR LAST YEAR. SARKIS GOVT TRYING TO SET UP 3000-MAN FORCE ARMED WITH LIGHT INFANTRY EQUIPMENT.

-- US CREDITS CONDITIONAL UPON CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL; US OFFICIALS SAID WESTERN EUROPEANS WOULD ALSO BE ASKED TO PROVIDE AID.

-- 4 EXPLOSIONS PRIOR TO VANCE ARRIVAL CAUSED SECURITY OFFICIALS SOME CONCERN. THEY OCCURRED IN BOTH CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM SECTIONS OF BEIRUT.

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NEWSPAPERS

NY TIMES -- BERNARD GWERTZMAN FROM ALEXANDRIA (P-1)

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE SAID TODAY THAT A GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE MIDEAST WAS UNLIKELY TO BE CONVENED SOON AND THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED AN EGYPTIAN IDEA TO TRY TO CALL TOGETHER ARAB AND ISRAELI FONMINS IN A PRELIMINARY MEETING TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR AN EVENTUAL CONFERENCE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE AND SADAT SOUGHT TO PUT BEST FACE ON "WHAT WAS A FALLBACK POSITION IF A GENEVA SESSION COULD NOT EVOLVE FROM THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT TRIP."

-- POSSIBLE THAT WORKING GROUP COULD TURN INTO SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA BY BRINGING TOGETHER ORIGINAL PARTIES BUT NOT PLO.

-- IN BEIRUT, PLO SAID IT HAD RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED AT ANY MIDEAST CONFERENCE AND MIGHT INSIST ON TAKING PART IN WORKING GROUP, TOO.

-- NEW APPROACH SUGGESTED BY SADAT; US OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE NOT SURE WHETHER OTHER PARTIES WOULD ACCEPT IT. SEEMS SIMILAR TO KISSINGER 1975 PROPOSAL FOR PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE.

-- VANCE AND SADAT EVASIVE ABOUT DETAILS. PARAMOUNT QUESTION WAS WHETHER GROUP WAS A FACE-SAVING PLOY.

-- VANCE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS PROPOSAL WITH GROMYKO IN VIENNA NEXT MONTH.

-- SADAT RULED OUT BILATERAL EGYPT-ISRAEL TALKS, BUT SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO FAHMI SITTING IN ROOM WITH DAYAN AT MULTILATERAL TALKS.

-- VANCE WILL PROBABLY STOP IN ALEXANDRIA ON WAY HOME TO REPORT TO SADAT REACTIONS OF OTHER LEADERS.

WASH POST -- DON OBERDORFER FROM ALEXANDRIA (P-1)

LEAD: "PRESIDENT SADAT AND SECSTATE VANCE ENDED 2 DAYS OF TALKS TODAY WITH NO SIGN OF A BREAKTHROUGH TOWARD NEW ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AFTER SADAT REJECTED A NUMBER OF US PROPOSALS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- AT PRESS CONFERENCE, SADAT SAID THERE HAD BEEN "DIFFERENCES" BETWEEN VANCE AND HIM. HE PROPOSED US-SPONSORED WORKING GROUP TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A PRODUCTIVE GENEVA

CONFERENCE.

--VANCE SAID HE WOULD CONSULT OTHER LEADERS ON IDEA;
NEITHER WOULD SAY WHETHER PLO WOULD PARTICIPATE, AND THERE
WAS NO SIGN THAT KNOTTY PROBLEM HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

-- SADAT'S LEEWAY ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION WAS REDUCED IN
MIDST OF HIS TALKS WITH VANCE WHEN HE RECEIVED A FORMAL
STATEMENT BY PLO DEMANDING REPRESENTATION IN ALL EFFORTS
TO REACH MIDEAST PEACE. SADAT LATER REPEATED ENDORSEMENT
OF 1974 RABAT DECISION THAT PLO WAS SOLE LEGITIMATE
REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

-- REPORTS SAID SADAT HAD REJECTED US PROPOSAL FOR STAGED
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL COUPLED WITH ARAB ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL.
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AL-AHRAM PUBLISHED SIMILAR REPORT, AND US OFFICIALS CON-
FIRMED EGYPT HAD REJECTED SOME US PROPOSALS, BUT SAID MANY
ITEMS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND SOUGHT TO MINIMIZE THE
DIFFERENCES.

-- SADAT "GRIM AND TESTY" AT PRESS CONFERENCE, REFUSED TO
REPEAT STATEMENT MADE TO GROUP OF US CONGRESSMEN LAST
MONTH THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER FULL TRADE AND DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AFTER PEACE TREATY WAS SIGNED.

LA TIMES -- OZZIE JOHNSTON FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S PUSH FOR QUICK CONVENING
OF A MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE AT GENEVA TOOK AN UNEXPECTED
DETOUR TUESDAY WITH A SURPRISE AGREEMENT BY THE US AND
EGYPT ON A SUBSTITUTE FORMULA FOR BRINGING THE ARABS AND
ISRAELIS TOGETHER."

OTHER POINTS:

-- PROPOSAL FOR "WORKING GROUPS" ADVANCED BY SADAT "ON
APPARENTLY SHORT NOTICE." CAME AS SURPRISE TO WORKING-
LEVEL US DIPLOMATS.

-- PROPOSAL WOULD MEET PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BY EXCLUDING
THE PLO AT FIRST. IT APPEARS TO BE A REVERSION TO KIS-
SINGER 1975 PROPOSAL FOR A PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE.

-- USSR WOULD BE WELCOME IN WORKING GROUPS, VANCE SAID.

-- US OFFICIALS SAID VANCE MIGHT RETURN TO ALEXANDRIA NEXT
WEEK.

-- NEW PROPOSAL UPSET US EXPECTATIONS THAT SADAT WOULD BE

PREPARED TO LEAD WAY TO FORMULA TO AVOID PALESTINIAN ISSUE
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AT GENEVA.

-- KEY EVENT IN MONDAY'S TALKS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ARRIVAL
OF HARD-LINE PLO STATEMENT FROM BEIRUT, WHICH PROVOKED
"SADAT'S FIRST UNAMBIGUOUS PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF A PLO
ROLE IN MONTHS."

-- ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN REPORTS, FAHMI HAD REJECTED
DETAILED SERIES OF US PROPOSALS.

BALT SUN -- HANK TREWHITT FROM ALEXANDRIA (P-1)

LEAD: "EGYPT AND THE US PROPOSED LAST NIGHT THAT AN ARAB-
ISRAELI WORKING GROUP MEET IN THE US NEXT MONTH TO CLEAR
THE WAY TO A FORMAL GENEVA CONFERENCE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- BOTH GOVERNMENTS EMPHASIZED GROUP WAS NOT SUBSTITUTE
FOR GENEVA, BUT VANCE SAID IT MIGHT CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL
MONTHS.

-- SADAT SAID GROUP WOULD DEAL WITH BOTH SUBSTANCE AND
PROCEDURES FOR GENEVA.

-- PROPOSAL REPRESENTED AT LEAST TEMPORARY WAY AROUND SOME
OF OBSTACLES THAT HAVE BLOCKED ROAD TO GENEVA.

-- US OFFICIALS SAID IT WAS NOT ONLY APPROACH BEING CON-
SIDERED BY VANCE AND DISCUSSED WITH OTHER LEADERS. NEVER-
THELESS, US APPEARED TO BE COMMITTED TO SADAT PLAN "AS ITS
ONLY OR ITS PRINCIPAL ALTERNATIVE COURSE."

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-- IT WAS UNCLEAR WHY SADAT EXPECTED THOSE WHO OPPOSED
EXCLUSION OF PLO FROM GENEVA TO ACCEPT ITS EXCLUSION FROM
WORKING GROUP. HE STRONGLY IMPLIED ARAFAT HAD PREVENTED
HIM FROM COMPROMISING ON TERMS FOR GENEVA.

-- NOW LIKELY THAT VANCE WILL RETURN TO ALEXANDRIA, AND
POSSIBLY MAKE A SECOND STOP IN SYRIA AFTER HIS TALKS WITH
ISRAELIS.

WSJ -- BOB KEATLEY FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "EGYPT AND THE US WILL TRY TO FORM A MIDEAST

DIPLOMATIC 'WORKING GROUP' CHARGED WITH GETTING A FULL-SCALE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE UNDER WAY THIS FALL."

OTHER POINTS:

-- PROPOSAL MADE BY SADAT IS DESIGNED TO "PRESERVE AT LEAST THE APPEARANCE OF PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE..."

-- THERE IS GOOD CHANCE GROUP WILL NEVER BE FORMED; OTHER NATIONS HAVE YET TO GIVE THEIR CONSENT. SYRIA MAY OBJECT STRONGLY BECAUSE PROPOSAL SEEMS TO EXCLUDE ANY ROLE FOR PLO.

-- PROPOSAL SEEMS TO BE ONE WAY TO GET AROUND PLO PROBLEM, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. BUT ARAB GOVERNMENTS "WOULD PROBABLY SOON WALK OUT IF THEY BELIEVED A COMPROMISE ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE WASN'T IN SIGHT.

-- SYRIANS ALSO MAY NOT AGREE TO FACE-TO-FACE TALKS WITH ISRAELIS, EVEN IN CONTEXT OF MULTILATERAL WORKING GROUP.

-- IF SOME ARABS REFUSE TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH ISRAELIS, GROUP MAY TURN INTO "PROXIMITY TALKS," WITH VANCE MEETING UNCLASSIFIED

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SEPARATELY WITH EACH SIDE, AND CONVEYING PROPOSALS AND MESSAGES. SUCH A DEVICE MIGHT EVEN BECOME A LONG-RUNNING SUBSTITUTE FOR OFFICIAL GENEVA CONFERENCE -- VANCE SAID GROUP SHOULD OPERATE AS LONG AS IT IS USEFUL, AND INDICATED THAT IT COULD BE FOR MONTHS.

-- SADAT SAID IT SHOULD DEAL WITH MORE THAN PROCEDURES.

-- SOVIET ROLE IN GROUP UNCLEAR.

CHI TRIBUNE -- JOHN MACLEAN FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "US WILL TRY TO ARRANGE A MEETING OF ARAB AND ISRAELI FONMINS IN WASHINGTON AND POSSIBLY NEW YORK CITY IN SEPTEMBER TO WORK TOWARDS A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, IT WAS ANNOUNCED TUESDAY NIGHT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SADAT SAID IDEA WAS HIS, LEFT DETAILS FOR VANCE TO WORK OUT.

-- EARLIER, SPOKESMAN CARTER HAD SAID US OFFERED SADAT SERIES OF PROPOSALS FOR GETTING GENEVA TALKS STARTED. PROPOSALS CONCERNED BOTH PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE OF TALKS.

LINK ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WITH
FULL ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL BY ARABS WITHIN 5 YEARS.
SOURCES SAID EGYPTIANS TURNED PLAN DOWN BECAUSE ISRAELI
WITHDRAWALS SHOULD TAKE PLACE SOONER THAN OVER 5 YEARS.

-- IN BEIRUT, PLO WARNED ARABS AGAINST ACCEPTING US-
SPONSORED SETTLEMENT WITHOUT PLO PARTICIPATION, CALLED FOR
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PAN-ARAB CONFERENCE TO DECIDE ON UNIFIED STANCE.

CSM -- DAN SOUTHERLAND FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BEHIND-THE-SCENES DEVELOP-
MENTS FOR SECSTATE VANCE'S CURRENT MIDEAST PEACE MISSION
MAY WELL BE THE INDIRECT PROBING NOW OCCURRING BETWEEN THE
US AND THE PLO."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ONE OF VANCE'S AIMS IS TO LOOK FOR SIGNS FROM ARAB
LEADERS THAT PLO IS WILLING TO MODIFY ITS STANCE ON
ISRAEL. PLO WANTS SIGNS THAT US WILL RECOGNIZE IT AS
NEGOTIATING PARTY IN MIDEAST.

-- CARTER LAST WEEK MADE MORE POSITIVE STATEMENT ON
SUBJECT, BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE SIGNAL TO PLO.

-- IT IS THOUGHT THAT PLO NOTE HANDED SCRANTON STRESSED
MODERATION AND DESIRE OF PLO FOR DIALOGUE WITH US.

CHRISTOPHER

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